

# MONTANA

## A Brief Description of Each Section Field Office Technical Guide

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### **SECTION I--General Resource References**

Section I lists references, cost data, maps, and other information for use in understanding the field office working area or in making decisions about resource use and resource management systems.

### **SECTION II--Natural Resources Information**

Section II contains natural resource data, databases, and procedures for interpretation. These may include Ecological Site Descriptions and Forage Suitability Group Descriptions. This section will have a statement indicating exactly what is used as the “official” copy of the Soil Survey.

### **SECTION III--Resource Management Systems**

Section III provides information for developing Resource Management Systems (RMS) to prevent or treat problems associated with soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources. A Resource Management System (RMS) will be achieved when the quality criteria for soil, water, air, plants, and animals are met. Quality criteria represent the level of resource protection which must be achieved in order to meet the Resource Management Systems requirements. RMS guidance documents are developed by major land uses in each field office and placed in Section III. All conservation planning assistance provided to resource users will be directed toward achieving the quality criteria established for each of the five resources and their considerations.

### **SECTION IV--Practice Standards and Specifications**

Section IV is an alphabetical list of conservation practices used by the field office, followed by practice standards and specifications. It may also include

references and documentation requirements for the individual practices.

Practice standards establish the minimum level of acceptable quality for planning, designing, installing, operating, and maintaining conservation practices.

Practice specifications describe the technical details and workmanship required to install the practice and the quality and extent of materials used in the practice.

### **SECTION V--Conservation Effects**

Section V contains effects information used in evaluating RMS for the five resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) and is dependent on the conservation planning disciplines: soils, agronomy, biology, forestry, engineering, etc., for input.

Conservation practice physical effects including site specific data with quantified or narratively described effects for each of the five resources is inserted behind the corresponding resource title. Producer experiences of resource situations where conservation is successfully applied, instructions and technical notes such as those for developing case studies, and for following the Conservation Effects for Decisionmaking (CED) procedures are also in Section V.